



November 30, 2024

Town of Hingham Conservation Commission
210 Central Street
Hingham, Massachusetts 02043-2759

ATTN: Ms. Shannon Palmer, Conservation Officer

RE: DEP File No. 034-1329 – Salt Marsh Monitoring Report
5 Bare Cove Lane, Hingham, Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Palmer:

SITEC Engineering & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (SITEC) performed a review of the salt marsh restoration area located at 5 Bare Cove Road in Hingham, MA on November 27, 2024. The salt marsh restoration work was subject to an Enforcement Order issued by the Hingham Conservation Commission on January 31, 2024 related to damage to the salt marsh incurred during previous dock construction work. The review was completed in accordance with Condition 3 of the Enforcement Order and was completed to document the health and progress of the salt marsh restoration area at the site since completed in June 2024. The following observations were made as a result of SITEC's site review:

- Overall, the salt marsh restoration area is stable with no signs of erosion or sloughing. The coir matting is in good condition and still tied off with twine and staking.
- The float damaged area that was repaired as part of the salt marsh restoration project has settled slightly, however, the coir matting is still in place and stable.
- The overwhelming majority of new *Spartina alterniflora* plantings in the main restoration area on southerly side of the dock are in good condition and have shown significant new growth.
- Some of the new *Spartina alterniflora* plantings on the northerly side of the dock are also in good condition and have shown new growth.
- It is clear that many of the plantings on the southerly and northerly sides of the dock along the seaward edge of the restoration area were planted at elevations that are too low for the plantings to survive. These plantings are in too much water during the tide cycle and have died off. SITEC estimates that these areas of die-off are well under 25% of the overall restoration area.

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- The condition of the new plantings under the landward end of the dock was difficult to determine because the area was covered with leaves. New growth was not observed. It is possible that this area may require additional salt marsh plantings that are more tolerant to dryer conditions as this area is in the higher reach of the intertidal zone. It is recommended that this area be raked out by hand to promote growth in the early spring.

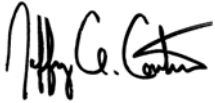
In summary, the main portion of the salt marsh restoration area has been successful during the first growing season. The areas of noted die-off were expected along the seaward edge since the success of these planting is entirely based on the amount of water the plants are exposed to. The restoration area beneath the landward edge of the dock should continue to be monitored for new growth. Enclosed are photographs of the salt marsh restoration area.

In accordance with Condition 3 of the Enforcement Order, two additional monitoring reports will be submitted to the Conservation Office no later than July 1, 2025 and December 1, 2025, respectively.

Please call or email me with any questions, comments or for any additional information. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

For SITEC Engineering & Environmental Consultants, Inc.



Jeffrey A. Couture
Project Manager

With Enclosure

C-1



Main area of salt marsh restoration area on south side of dock. Plantings are thriving.

C-2



Seaward edge of southern side of salt marsh restoration area. Plantings toward seaward edge too low to thrive.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC
DOCUMENTATION**
Salt Marsh Restoration
5 Bare Cove Lane
Hingham, Massachusetts

SITEC PROJ. NO.
SE18-1374

November 27, 2024



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C-3



Salt marsh restoration area on southerly side of dock.

C-4



Salt marsh restoration area on northerly side of dock. Most plantings in this area are too low to thrive.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC
DOCUMENTATION**
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C-5



Salt marsh restoration areas to the north of dock and beneath dock.

C-6



Salt marsh restoration area to the north of dock.

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